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Message Text

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PAGE 01 BLANTY 00004 031025Z

17
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAM-01 /075 W
---------- 049970
R 030900Z JAN 75
FM AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7648
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BLANTYRE 0004

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MI, ZA, RH
SUBJ: BANDA TO MAKE STATE VISIT TO ZAMBIA

CAPE TOWN FOR EMB

LONDON FOR HAVERKAMP

REF: A. BLANTYRE 1684
B. DAR 3611
C. BLANTYRE 1448

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED: MALAWI MEDIA ANNOUNCED NEW YEAR'S DAY
THAT PRESIDENT BANDA WOULD MAKE STATE VISIT TO ZAMBIA FROM
JAN 8-12, 1975, IN RESPONSE TO LONG-STANDING INVITATION
FROM PRESIDENT KAUNDA. GOM PROTOCOL HAS INFORMED US THAT BANDA
WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY MINISTER FOR YOUTH AND CULTURE CHAKUAMBA
PHIRI, MINISTER OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND LABOR DELEZA,
AND SEC FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS JOHN NGWIRI. BANDA WILL
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DEPART FOR ZAMBIA FROM BLANTYRE AND RETURN TO LILONGWE (WHICH

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BECAME MALAWI'S OFFICIAL CAPITAL ON JAN 1). END UNCLASSIFIED

2. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL: WE HAVE NO FIRM EVIDENCE AT THIS TIME THAT BANDA'S TRIP IS FOR OTHER THAN RECIPROCATING KAUNDA'S VISIT TO MALAWI IN MAY 1974. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION SOURCE INDICATES PLANNING FOR TRIP THOUGH CLOSELY HELD HAS BEEN UNDERWAY FOR ALMOST 2 MONTHS. NEVERTHELESS, BANDA UNDOUBTEDLY WILL DELIGHT IN TIMING OF VISIT, OCCURRING AS IT DOES IN CONJUNCTION WITH MOVEMENT ON RHODESIA AND WITH UK FONSEC CALLAGHAN'S AFRICAN TOUR. HE UNDOUBTEDLY ALSO WILL SEEK OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENO HIMSELF AS ORIGINAL EXPONENT OF CONTACT AND DIALOGUE, PERHAPS SUGGESTING FOR HIMSELF SOME ROLE IN POSSIBLE RHODESIAN CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION (REF A). HE MAY ALSO REGARD ZAMBIA TRIP AS CHANCE TO REPAIR DAMAGE TO HIS REPUTATION AS AFRICAN NATIONALIST CAUSED BY ILL-PLACED 1974 SUPPORT FOR JORGE JARDIM AND SOMEWHAT EQUIVOCAL QUALITY OF HIS SUPPORT FOR FRELIMO DURING WAR OF LIBERATION IN

MOZAMBIQUE (REFS B AND C).
STEVENSON

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